

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT New Equipment Used by Czech Army

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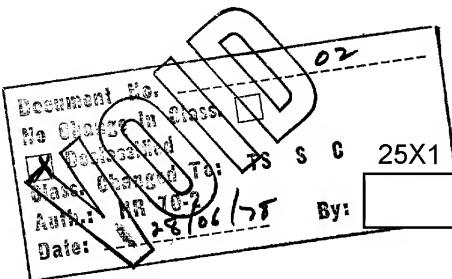
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1. The following new equipment is being used by the Czech army:

- a. An automatic rifle, which is made in Czechoslovakia. It has a caliber of 9 mm and an ammunition clip containing 30 rounds; the barrel is shorter than that of previous rifles; the stock and the covering of half the barrel are made out of bakelite; the ammunition clip is inserted in the stock. Garrison units use the same automatic rifle except that their model has a retractable metal bar instead of a stock. This bar has a metal foot on one end, which rests on the ground when the rifle is being fired from a prone position. When it is carried during marching, the rifle looks like a large automatic pistol and the bar is retracted. This new weapon fires well, is very light, and is very cheap to produce. No units have yet been equipped with this rifle, but it has been exhibited to officers and is available in quantities in warehouses.
- b. An anti-tank mine, which is made out of non-metal parts so that it cannot be detected by means so far employed; even the firing device is made out of bakelite. The mine contains 5.85 kg of an explosive called "obositritol" which may be left in dampness for several days. The mine destroys tank tracks but it does not harm humans since it goes off only under considerable weight. It has been used since the beginning of 1949. The Russians used similar mines--T-35's--but these had metal parts.

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Next Review Date: 2008



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